

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 10, 2003 has been carefully reviewed. Claims 1-20 are pending in this patent application. By this amendment, claims 1-7 have been canceled, and claims 21-41 have been added. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Amendment to Specification

The specification has been amended to correct the informality noted by the Examiner on page 2, paragraph 2 of the February 10, 2003 Office Action. A version with markings showing changes made to the specification is included herewith as "Attachment".

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Claim 2 has been canceled.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Swartzell (U.S. Patent No. 6,315,336) in view of Barnett (U.S. Patent No. 4,374,320). Claims 1-7 have been canceled. Reconsideration of claims 8-20 is respectfully requested.

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claim 8

Among the various limitations of claim 8, the following are recited:

- a cam plate coupled to said cam and driven by said cam;
- a motor coupled to said cam and operative to drive said cam;
- a latch mechanism coupled to and driven by said motor;
- a plurality of switches maintained on said support and selectively actuated by said cam plate.

Examiner's Proposed Combination of Swartzell and Barnett Does Not Arrive at Applicant's Invention of Claim 8

Neither Swartzell nor Barnett discloses a cam plate, nor a plurality of switches selectively actuated by a cam plate. And much less, a motor that drives a cam, where (i) such cam drives such cam plate, and (ii) such motor drives a latch mechanism. Thus, even if Swartzell and Barnett were combined, the resulting combination would not arrive at a door latch for a self-cleaning oven that possesses all of the claimed characteristics of claim 8.

Since Swartzell and Barnett cannot be combined so as to arrive at Applicant's invention of claim 8, the proposed combination of Swartzell and Barnett does not establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103 with regard to the invention of claim 8.

If the rejection of claim 8 is maintained after considering the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner specifically identify (e.g. by column and line number) where all of the above-identified limitations (and interrelationships therebetween) exist in Swartzell or Barnett.

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claims 9-13

Each of claims 9-13 depends directly from claim 8. As a result, each of claims 9-13 is allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 8. Moreover, each of claims 9-13 adds further novel and non-obvious limitations. Thus, claims 9-13 are further allowable over the cited art.

Discussion Re: Patentability of Claim 14

The discussion relating to the patentability of claim 8 is relevant to the patentability of claim 14. Thus, claim 14 is allowable over the cited art.

Discussion Regarding Patentability of Claims 15-20

Each of claims 15-20 depends directly from claim 14. As a result, each of claims 15-20 is allowable for, at least, the reasons hereinbefore discussed with regard to claim 14. Moreover, each of claims 15-20 adds further novel and non-obvious limitations. Thus, claims 15-20 are further allowable over the cited art.

Newly Added Claims 21-41

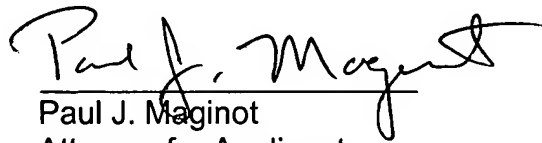
Claims 21-41 have been added. Such claims recite novel and nonobvious limitations. Accordingly, claims 21-41 are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Action to that end is hereby solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MAGINOT, MOORE & BOWMAN

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Maginot", written over a horizontal line.

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Attachment

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made to Specification

In the Specification

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 17, line 3 with "The flange 68" and ending at page 17, line 8 with "the oven 10." as follows:

The [flange 68] plate 66 further includes [mounting] a number of holes or bores 74 defined therein (see, e.g., Figs. 3 and 13). [that are adapted and/or configured to allow screws, bolts, or other fasteners (not shown) to extend therethrough and be held by the flange 68. The mounting holes 74 and the fasteners cooperate to allow the door latch module 32 to be mounted to the oven 10. Particularly] Moreover, the flange 68 abuts the inside surface (not shown) of the panel 40 when the locking mechanism 32 is mounted to the oven 10.